

Copied from the New York Tribune of Tuesday, November 11, 1851.

Death of John Kearny Rodgers, M. D.

The announcement of the death of Dr. Rodgers will have been received with regret by the public, and particularly by the medical profession, of which he was so bright and distinguished a member. For many years the name of Dr. Rodgers has been familiar to the public, while his eminent skill and success as a surgeon have won for him the highest admiration of the profession - not only in this country, but in Europe. Dr. Rodgers was born in 1793, and was therefore about 58 at the time of his death. He was the son of Dr. J. R. B. Rodgers, of this City, who attained high eminence as a medical practitioner about the year 1800, and grandson of Reverend Dr. Rodgers, the former pastor of the Wall Street Presbyterian Church at the Revolutionary period. The subject of our sketch was educated at Princeton, N. J., and subsequently studied medicine in this City with Dr. Wright Post, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then in Barclay, now in Crosby Street. During his course of studies at the medical school he displayed all those superior traits which afterward rendered him so distinguished in his profession, and made him the favorite of the School. His accuracy and scientific attainments, united with his skill in anatomical examinations, were such that he was selected as Dr. Post's demonstrator, the duties of which position he discharged with the greatest fidelity, achieving for himself already a desirable reputation. During the later part of his medical course he filled the post of House Surgeon in the New York Hospital, where he won the confidence of the profession and of the Governors of the Institution, and he gave the highest satisfaction to those who required his care and attention.

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Dr. Rodgers graduated in 1816, when he went to Europe, spending some two years in London and Paris, chiefly in the former city, where he attended the lectures of Sir Astley Cooper, Benjamin Travers, Abernethy, and Haighton. These celebrated men discovered in the young American elements of character and promises of future distinction and eminence which they were not backward to appreciate and acknowledge, and the marked attention which they paid their pupil gave evidence of their estimate of his character and ability. The Hospitals of Guy's and St. Thomas's will not probably soon bear on their registers the name of one more worthy of an honorable memorial than that of J. Kearny Rodgers.

On the return of Dr. Rodgers to this country, which was in November, 1818, he commenced the practice of Surgery, that department for which he had so peculiarly fitted himself, and for which his nicety and skill as well as thorough scientific knowledge, made him so fully qualified. In 1820, in connection with Dr. Edward Delafield, he established the Eye Infirmary, now in Mercer Street, where some two thousand patients are annually treated for diseases of that delicate organ. In 1828 he was appointed one of the surgeons of the City Hospital, which post he occupied up to the time of his death.

Dr. Rodgers has left behind him no contributions to medical literature. He never published any work, and it is believed not even an article in any medical journal. He was not a writer, as he never was a theorist. Eminently practical in his habits and his tastes, he rejected the merely speculative for the demonstrative, and the theory for the result. His name will stand high, not for discovery, not for theory, not for discussion, but for his uniformly successful career as an operator, in even the most critical cases. His most remarkable operation - one which attracted the universal admiration of







the scientific world - was performed about three years ago, in the Hospital, upon a sailor then confined in that institution. The celebrated Sir Astley Cooper had attempted the same operation, and failed. It was an operation for aneurism, by tying the sub-clavian artery. - The extreme difficulty and delicacy of this operation with its unrivaled success, won for Dr. Rodgers a fame still higher than that he had already achieved.

Dr. Rodgers in his personal character was no less beloved than admired for his professional duties. Of sterling integrity, of a noble and generous mind, tender and sympathizing, sincere and earnest, he won friends only to make them enduring. Possessed of a high degree of conscientiousness, he was eminently honest in the professional sense of the term as an operator, never disguising the truth where its utterance was required. He will long be remembered, and we doubt not suitable observances and testimonials to his memory will be held among the profession, who will not soon be able to replace the loss occasioned by the death of Dr. Rodgers. The funeral will take place at the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue, at 4 o'clock, this afternoon.



